

Schools Vitalize Study of English

Fighting "Blight of Literary Bookishness" and Making Expression Chief Aim, Says Thurston.

Public schools are fighting the dreary "silences of print." Hence a new interest in dramatic interpretations and in story telling, to overcome what one educator terms the "blight of literary bookishness."

What Washington is doing to vitalize its English course is described by Supt. E. L. Thurston.

English as a tool, rather than as an accomplishment, and grammar as a means, rather than as an end in itself, are two of the points about which Mr. Thurston is insistent. Likewise literature, he asserts, should be imparted to the pupil as an interpretation of the vital, pulsing life about him, and not as a thing apart.

By J. R. HILDEBRAND. Recall the days when you plodded through weighty volumes of dry as dust "classics," when you struggled mightily with the subtleties and niceties of Murray's grammar, when you went to sleep over "collateral reading," when you looked upon graduation day as a blessed relief from the tyranny of books and a return to life. Then listen to Superintendent Thurston's outline of English as it now is being taught, and wish you were young again!

"With Percival Chubb, most of us are crying for deliverance from the 'silences of print,'" he said. "Literature is being enlivened more and more by dramatization. Literature also is being taught as an interpretation of life."

"To teach a pupil to express himself orally, before he is put to writing his thoughts; to teach simple, fluent and pleasing expression in writing before the cumbersome machinery of grammar is revealed; to deal first at first on the paragraph, as the thought unit, rather than on lengthy paragraphs and compositions; to return to abstract themes—these are a few of the factors which tend to vitalize English courses."

English Taught as Tool. Speaking before the English Teachers' Journal Club recently, Mr. Thurston touched upon some of these points. Today he amplified them. Many of these tendencies, he said, already have found a place in the curriculum of Washington schools. "There has come about a general recognition of the universal use of English," he explained. "It is the one study that must run from the beginning to the end of the educational system. It is related to all other studies, for, unless a pupil can express what he knows, he cannot learn. It is a tool in school as well as in life, and as such the pupil must early learn to handle it deftly."

Emphasis now is laid on oral English because such a secure follow the normal development of a child. He learns to talk long before he is taught to read. Likewise, children now believe the ability to talk clearly and fluently is the best preparation for success in logical writing. Therefore, story-telling and general narrative work is encouraged in schools.

It is strange that in grammar, one of the most elemental and needful studies, there should be the widest variety of opinions. Mr. Thurston said: "The teaching of this subject is one of the most important of the day. One group would develop a strong technical knowledge of grammar in the grades. Another group would teach only the essentials of grammar at first, and delay extended consideration of the subject until the eighth grade. Our Washington schools are following the latter plan. Our teachers encourage a use of simple and correct English, encourage oral expression. Later the technical points of grammar may be taught, and may be better understood for this other training."

Oral Expression First. "In other words grammar now is regarded as a tool, not as an end in itself. Our object is not to make grammarians, but to turn out pupils able to express themselves orally, or on paper."

"Then there is the general effort to vitalize literature, first by dramatization, and then by impressing upon the child that literature, after all, is an interpretation of life. Percival Chubb phrases this point well when he referred, in a recent article, to the 'blight of literary bookishness.'"

He deplores the passing of the folk song, the ballad, the union of song and dance, and all the social pleasures of literature. Instead of these we now think only of literature as stretches of printed pages. "But there now is a reaction against this feeling, and we are having more and more visualizations of characters and incidents. That is the meaning of the growth of dramatic entertainments in our schools, of the new attention to folk dancing, of rhythm work, of pantomime, and

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E. L. THURSTON, Superintendent of Schools in the District.

all other methods of interpreting thought through action."

A tentative course in English, embodying practically all these principles, now is effective in the public schools of Washington. It was outlined by a committee of more than a score of Washington educators, and approved by Superintendent Thurston.

The general aim of the course, as described in a foreword, "should be to create the habit of correct use of English in speaking and in writing by making the pupils alert, by cultivating the child ear so that it shall be sensitive to mistakes, by stressing the importance of correct English in social life, and by emphasizing its market value in the business world."

Story Telling Emphasized. Suggestions along the lines indicated by Superintendent Thurston are contained in explanatory notes throughout the description of this course printed in a volume of 144 pages.

Story telling is emphasized throughout the English courses. "This telling and reading of stories," teachers are informed, "should not end with primary grades, but should form an important feature of the work of the intermediate classes. It is a well established fact that a child's power to gain thought from the printed page does not keep pace with his ability to appreciate the charm of a story well told, or read to him. Thus, if thoroughness enters upon his own resources he loses much of that which should be his literary heritage."

The importance of English as a tool also is brought out in the explanatory notes. "The teacher must inculcate the habit of sharing in the work of the day's program," according to one instructor. "Hence, in the grade school curriculum English exercises should be taught not as a thing apart, but as a part of all things."

Difference in Density Of Chesapeake Waters

There is great difference in density of the waters of Chesapeake bay in different strata, and the bay waters are as a rule lighter than the waters of the Atlantic, according to a report to the Navy Department from Lieut. Clarence N. Hinkamp, detailing the submarine maneuvers recently held under his direction. In a submarine run from Cherry Stone light to the Atlantic, 2,000 pounds of ballast had to be gradually added to keep the boat from rising because of increasing density of water. On the other hand, off Annapolis, it was found that the water was denser, and that more than the ordinary ballast was needed to carry the boat to the bottom.

Glynn Has Dismissed Warden at Sing Sing

NEW YORK, Nov. 1.—Thomas J. McCormick was dismissed as warden of Sing Sing prison after Governor Glynn had read the report submitted to him by Stephen C. Baldwin, the special commissioner appointed to investigate the affairs of the institution. McCormick has been warden four months.

FINANCIAL

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4 STATE CAMPAIGNS ATTRACT ATTENTION

New York Election Uncertain; Penrose Strong; Ohio and Illinois Close.

Among the States whose campaigns are attracting special notice as the date for election draws near are New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Ohio. Extreme uncertainty characterizes the New York situation. So many different currents are affecting the political tide that many of the leaders say frankly they do not know what will be the outcome. With respect to the contest between Governor Whitman and Governor Glynn over the governorship, it is even money in Wall street but the latest advice are that Whitman has a shade the better of it. In the contest over the Senate between Ambassador Gerard and James W. Wadsworth, Jr., the betting favors Judge Gerard. The odds are as high as three to one, but the public sentiment in the city and takes little account of the sentiment up-State, which may prove a surprise.

The Pennsylvania situation has attracted wide notice because of the efforts to down Senator Penrose. His opponents are Congressman Mitchell Palmer, who was forced into the contest against his will by the White House, and Gifford Pinchot, who is running on the Bull Moose ticket. Indications are that Penrose will win a substantial victory. Palmer will not get the vote of the Senate. It has been made clear, nevertheless, that where such transactions are not without the permission of the government, intimations having come from this city that such action would be discontinued by the Administration.

Attitude Changed.

Recently, however, the Administration is said to have changed its attitude on that question. The State Department is now said to have taken the stand that American banks, collectively or individually, are free to make loans to the European nations. It has been made clear, nevertheless, that where such transactions are not without the permission of the government, intimations having come from this city that such action would be discontinued by the Administration.

Thirty Churches Plan Evangelical Campaign

ALBANY, Nov. 1.—To discover the religious tendencies of the people and stimulate interest in religion more than thirty Protestant churches tonight will inaugurate here a series of evangelistic services, covering two weeks. The services, which will be in the form of old-fashioned revival coronations, will be held simultaneously in six different churches, located in various parts of the city.

IN LOCAL FINANCIAL CIRCLES

Having made marked progress with the adjustment of foreign exchange problems, and found markets abroad for large quantities of supplies necessary to the warring nations, thus improving the balance of trade situation, the United States through its individual banks and the Board of Corporations, investigating the organization, conduct, and practices of industrial corporations; inquire into unfair competition and alleged violations of the anti-trust law, and aid the Department of Justice and the courts in the prosecution of business offenders.

The loan made to France, however, will not entail the shipment of gold across the Atlantic. The loan was made with the understanding that the money was to be placed to the credit of the French government, to be drawn upon for the supplies and munitions of war transactions as might be required by the United States. The money will be provided by the New York bank for a 6 per cent French treasury notes running for nine months.

At the very outbreak of the great European war one of the largest banking houses was unwilling to act without the permission of the government, intimations having come from this city that such action would be discontinued by the Administration.

Funerals

Emilie Devlin. Funeral services for Emilie Devlin, who died on Friday at her residence, 44 Sixth street northwest, will be held tomorrow at her late home at 1:30 p. m. The interment will be private.

Mary Estelle Duryee. The funeral of Mary Estelle Duryee, who died on Friday in New York, will be held from Oak Hill Chapel tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.

John J. McConnell. The funeral of John J. McConnell, who died on Friday, will be held from his late residence, 316 I street southeast, tomorrow at 3:30. Mass will be said at St. Dominic's Church.

Mary E. McBride. Funeral services for Mary E. McBride, who died on Friday, were held from W. W. Deal's funeral parlors this morning. Interment will be in Northumberland, Pa.

Ernest Schmid. Ernest Schmid, who died yesterday, will be buried from his late residence, 1335 Fairmont street northwest, on Tuesday at 10 o'clock. The interment will be in Wright's Chapel, 1337 Tenth street northwest.

Mary P. Sullivan. Funeral services for Mary P. Sullivan, who died on Friday at her residence, 214 E street southwest, will be held at her son's residence, 255 Four-and-a-half street southwest, tomorrow at 9:30 a. m. Mass will be said at St. Dominic's Church. The interment will be in Mt. Olivet cemetery.

James B. Tate. Funeral services for James B. Tate, who died on Friday, will be held this morning from Wright's Chapel, 1337 Tenth street northwest.

Kate D. Windsor. The funeral of Kate D. Windsor, who died on Friday, will be held from her late residence, 145 E street southeast, tomorrow at 2 p. m.

Spending \$8,000,000 in Chicago. With \$8,000,000 gold in a Chicago bank, British agents in that city have been placing large orders for meats, clothing, trucks and harness. French and Russian buyers are said to have been almost equally active, with the result that the estimates made by the Chicago supply men place the combined expenditures of these nations at more than \$8,000,000 in Chicago alone.

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Washington, D. C., Oct. 29, 1914. The Washington Times Classified Advertising Manager: Dear Sir—While looking through the columns of the "Thrifty Buyers" I noticed an advertisement which appealed to me as an advantage to any one who desires to learn the "Touch Typewriting System," which the Mutual Typewriter Company offers free with every first grade typewriter. I being a man of business had not the time to spend in the business colleges of this city, so I have taken advantage of the offer. I purchased a number 4 Underwood, and with the amount paid, I have even been twice as satisfied as when I received it. Thanking you for your co-operation in bringing me this opportunity to my attention, I am respectfully, N. C. EMMONS, 50 M St. N. W.

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